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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,905	11/16/2001	Michael Adendorff	02310.0053	7803
22852 7590 12/22/2006 FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER ROBERTSON, DAVID	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3623	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		12/22/2006	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,905

Applicant(s)

FAZAL ET AL.

Examiner

Dave Robertson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-44 are examined.

Priority

2. Applicant's claim for the benefit of a prior-filed application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c) is acknowledged. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

3. If applicant desires to claim the benefit of a prior-filed application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or under 35 U.S.C. 120, a specific reference to the prior-filed application in compliance with 37 CFR 1.78(a) must be included in the first sentence(s) of the specification following the title or in an application data sheet. For benefit claims under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the reference must include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) of the applications.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims recite the limitation "the multiple organizations" for which there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

This rejection is raised to afford the opportunity for applicant to clarify the scope of "the multiple organizations" in the claims. In the art, a data warehouse may serve multiple organizations within the same company, for example, by functional department (sales, marketing, manufacturing), or multiple companies of a larger enterprise, for example, as in a supply chain network. For the purposes of examination on the merits "multiple organizations" will be taken to be mean either of multiple organizations within a company, or multiple companies within an enterprise.

To make claims 1-6 consistent other claims as presented, examiner suggests amendment to claim 1 to read "...for managing performance of multiple organizations", without loss of scope to either single or multi-company applications unless it is applicant's intent to otherwise limit scope to one or the other scenario. Clarification is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weissman et al (US 6212524 B1 "Method and Apparatus for Creating and Populating a Datamart" and "Method and Apparatus for Creating Aggregates for Use in a Datamart" US 6161103 to Rauer with common inventor Weissman, co-filed May 6, 1998) in view of

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Harmony Software, Inc. (WO 00/425543 "Methods and Apparatus for Processing Business Information from Multiple Enterprises").

Weissman discloses a configurable software framework for creating, populating, and maintaining business-directed dimensional data marts for a particular organization from an enterprise data warehouse, including configurable connectors used to access and aggregate multiple data sources, with emphasis on building a single data mart for one of "multiple organizations" as defined above.

Harmony discloses a configurable software framework for creating, populating, and maintaining business-directed dimensional data marts for a particular organization from an enterprise data warehouse, including configurable connectors used to access multiple data sources with emphasis on building data marts across an enterprise.

Claim 1

Weissman discloses a data model storing dimensions and measures (Figure 7 and Dimension Related Tables, column 14), the data model having settable placeholders (column 14, discussion of attribute setting including default values); and a configuration unit for setting the placeholders for a particular organization (see Enterprise Manager Interface, Figures 7-33 and related discussion); however, Weissman does not expressly disclose "a data model applicable for multiple organizations."

It is old and well known in the art of data warehousing that each organization, within a single company or across an enterprise, has different business needs, and each may have its own local data warehouse or datamart populated from data sources

of a company or enterprise. (See Sen and Jacob, "Industrial Strength Data Warehousing", Communications of the ACM, Special Issue on Data Warehousing, September, 1998.) The organization-focused decision-support capability of a dimensional datamart is precisely their advantage over attempting to extract data from enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems and on-line transaction processing OLTP systems, or from the vast data stores of a company-wide data warehouse. It is also old and well known that systems using data sources across organizations within a single company or across an enterprise require accessing and harmonizing the various types of data and database systems (Kimball, The Data Warehouse Lifecycle Toolkit, 1998, Chapter 9 "The Back Room Technical Architecture", pg. 357). Though Weissman teaches creating and customizing datamarts for a particular organization employing "connector" technology for the extraction of data from data sources, Weissman does not expressly give examples of building multiple datamarts for a different one of multiple organizations.

Harmony expressly discloses creating dimensional data warehouses for different organizations across an enterprise of multiple companies, or within a company having multiple divisions (see Harmony, pages 2, 3 and 5). In view of Weissman's teaching of building datamarts for an organization, though not restricted so, and Harmony's teaching of building datamarts for multiple organizations, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ Weissman for a particular organization, and then employ Weissman for a second and third organization, thereby providing datamarts for multiple organizations. Doing so would have built for

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each organization of multiple organizations a datamart focused on their business needs, thereby providing more relevant data to answer their business questions and to make better decisions relative to their organization's needs.

Claim 2

Weissman discloses a data model storing dimensions (column 14 "Dimension Related Tables") and measures (Figure 1 (168) and column 13 "Fact Related Tables" and "measures are bits of data in fact tables" at column 6 "Definitions") and relationships between dimensions and measures allowing the use of common dimensions for analysis by multiple organizations, including cross-function analyses (Figure 7 in the Constellations section of the tree, Sales..Measures and Expense...Measures). *Sales* and *Expense* functions are cross-functional analyses. By the reasoning of claim 1 motivating the building of datamarts from a data model applicable to multiple organizations, using the teaching of Weissman in view of Harmony, Weissman intrinsically provides for measures to use common dimensions across functional areas in at least the dimension of "Customer" (see Figure 8, Base Dimension (810) Item "Customer").

Claim 3

Weissmann teaches groupings of common (base) dimensions applicable to the "Sales" organization (Figure 8, "Sales..Dimensions" at (820)).

Claim 4

Weissman teaches dimensions having placeholders defining at least one of ...a category settor...defined by the user (see Figure 10 Dimension Windows (1000) setting a Customer Region Code).

Claim 5

Weissman teaches measures having placeholders defining at least one of ...a currency settor...defined by the user (see Figure 30 Measure Selections Units for CURRENCY).

Claim 6

Weissman teaches a configuration unit (the Enterprise Manager Interface, Figures 7-33) having at least one of...a currency settor...defined by the user (see Figure 30 Measure Selections Units for CURRENCY).

Claims 7

Weissman teaches connectors for extracting data with settable parameters (Figure 24 and related discussion on Extraction Interface Elements, e.g. column 36).

Claim 8

Weissman teaches connectors for extracting data with pre-defined and user-defined parameters specifying a particular data source system (Figure 19 "Input Data Store" and related discussion on Extraction Interface Elements, e.g. column 36).

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Claim 9

Weissman teaches connectors with settable parameters for the local environmental data store (Figure 20 "Data Store Window (2000) "Data Store Type").

Claims 10-12

Weissman teaches a configuration unit (the Enterprise Manager Interface (192)) setting the type of database system for the connector, e.g. Microsoft SQL Server, a local "environmental" data source parameter. The setting of the database type by the Enterprise Manager Interface is the setting of a parameter (claim 10), a source detail (claim 11), and an environmental setting (claim 12).

Claims 13 and 14

Weissman teaches connectors comprising extraction transformation loading (ETL) software (Figure 22, see "Connector Steps" and within "SQL Statement"). SQL statements are extraction transformation loading code applied against SQL databases in the Extraction Program unit of Figure 1 (20) and related discussion.

Claim 15

Weissman teaches transforming data from online transaction processing systems (OLTP) to datamarts and from data warehouses to multidimensional datamarts (see Background, column 1); however Weissman does not expressly teach using as a data source an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system.

ERP systems are database systems similarly comprehensive to a company or enterprise and similarly disadvantaged as OLTP for decision-support compared to what business-focused dimensional datamarts provide. Companies and enterprises may

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have one or both types of systems either providing substantial data on the business activity of interest to multiple organizations.

Harmony specifically mentions ERP systems as a data source for dimensional datamarts. Recognizing the similar disadvantages of OLTP and ERP systems for decision support, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention that the advantages of Weissman over OLTP systems would apply as well to ERP systems, adding to the class of data sources ERP systems. Thus recognizing ERP as a data source would enable multiple organizations of those companies using ERP only, or both ERP and OLTP systems, to access and use the vast stores of data provided by each, thereby building more complete and accurate dimensional datamarts for their business analysis needs.

Claim 16

Weissman teaches an operational framework (Figure 1) with a configuration unit (the Enterprise Manager Interface –192), which is a console for configuring the data warehouse.

Claim 17

Weissman teaches a content explorer and reporting unit (see Figure 1 Query/Reporting Program--104 and Query/Results Interface—184). The Enterprise Manager Interface—192 is a metadata content explorer.

Claim 18

Weissman teaches or suggests the data model and configuration unit elements as in claim 1 (see discussion above) in the process (flowchart of Figure 2 unlabeled) of

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creating a data warehouse and using the configuration unit (Figure 7 to Figure 33 and related discussion) to set the model parameters.

Claims 19 and 20

Weissman teaches or suggests the data model and configuration unit elements as in claim 1 (see discussion above) and connectors extracting data with pre-defined and user-defined parameters specifying a particular data source system (Figure 19 "Input Data Store" and related discussion on Extraction Interface Elements, e.g. column 36) in an operational framework (Figure 1) having a configuration unit (Enterprise Manager Interface –192), which is a console for configuring the data warehouse.

Claim 21

Weissman teaches connectors comprise extraction transformation loading (ETL) software (Figure 22, see "Connector Steps" and within "SQL Statement"). SQL statements are extraction transformation loading code applicable against SQL databases for use in the Extraction Program unit (Figure 1 (20) and related discussion).

Claims 22-44

Claims 22-44 are variations of embodiments of the present invention reciting substantially similar elements corresponding to claims 1-21 and are rejected for reasons corresponding to the relevant claims and claim elements as discussed above.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chen et al (US 6377934 B1 "Method for Providing a Reverse Star Schema Model"), discloses a configurable software framework for creating, populating, and maintaining business-directed dimensional datamarts for a particular organization from an enterprise data warehouse, with emphasis on customer-centric business aspects of multiple organizations (business groups).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Robertson whose telephone number is 571-272-8220. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:15am to 5:15pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

dcr

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